

# The TRAILBLAZER



U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Syracuse, NY 1st Quarter FY03

## Annual Training Conference a Major Success

Story by Garry Luke, photos by Michael Murk

The Trailblazer Annual Training Conference put the

exclamation point on another fiscal year. The successes of

FY02 were celebrated by recognizing the Trailblazer's top support personnel, recruiters, stations and

companies.

Niagara Falls was the setting for this annual event which was at the Holiday Inn Select, one block from one of the natural wonders of the world.

Plans are already underway for next year's gala event.



*SSG Scott A. Ruff, center, watches as spouse Rebecca receives a Certificate of Appreciation for her contributions and support from BG Leo A. Brooks, West Point. SSG Ruff earned the Recruiter Ring.*



*Cortland's SSG Amedeo Trotta, right, and SSG Kevin Wingard, receive the Most Improved On-Production Awards as well as the Top On-Production Station Award.*

### Congratulations to the winners of the Annual Awards:

**Top Staff Section...**Education Services  
**Top Civilian Staff Member...**Mike Murk  
**Top Military Staff Member...**SFC Daniel Davis  
**Top Guidance Counselor...**SFC Todd Lattin  
**Top Special Mission Company...**Syracuse  
**Best DEP Leadership Station...**Ilion  
**Bn. Cdr. Trailblazer Award...**SFC James Polnitz  
**Bn. CSM Trailblazer Award...**SFC Timothy Wooden  
**NCO of the Year...**SSG Scott Ruff  
**Volunteer of the Year...**Connie Hadley  
**Runner-up USAR Recruiter...**SFC Peter Palumb  
**Runner-up RA Recruiter...**SSG Scott Ruff  
**Top New Recruiter...**SSG Robert Trauger  
**Top USAR Recruiter...**SGT Jeffrey Klimek  
**Top RA Recruiter...**SSG Christopher Warren  
**Most Improved OP Station...**Cortland  
**Top OP Station...**Cortland  
**Most Improved LP Station...**Tonawanda  
**Top LP Station...**Syracuse Main  
**Most Improved Company...**Buffalo  
**Top USAR Company...**Buffalo  
**Top RA Company...**Buffalo  
**Top Company...**Buffalo

Continued on page 7

# Happy Holidays to all of our Trailblazers and Trailblazer families

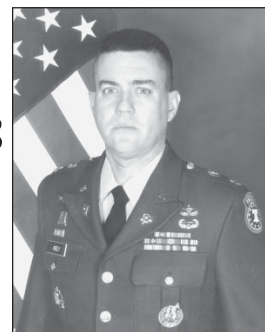
This is the time of year for us all to reflect on our many blessings and the freedom that we enjoy as Americans.

It is also a time to spend cherished moments with our friends, families and loved ones.

I know you've all read the battalion holiday leave and incentive policy. I expect everyone in the battalion to fully implement the policy and take some well-deserved down time.

I'd also ask you to remember our friends and comrades-in-arms who are currently serving in harm's way and won't have the opportunity to spend the holidays at home.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. Thanks for all of your hard work and sacrifice in 2002. Happy New Year and let's have a great 2003.



## A message from CSM Billy Lansberry



I want to thank each and every soldier, civilian and family member of the Syracuse Trailblazer team. You have made the last 30 months the most rewarding of my career in the Army.

To the families: I would tell you the sacrifices you are making to keep the family running while your soldier is working long stressful hours are the key to the Army meeting its mission. You don't have the support of a military installation, but you have each other. I encourage you to take an active role in your unit Family Readiness Group and help those who need it.

To the staff: Your efforts do and probably always will go mostly unnoticed unless something goes wrong. Your positive effect, however, I noticed in every station and company I visited over the last couple of years. Most soldiers in the field will not see what I had the privilege to see, a group of caring professionals who are committed to making the Battalion and the soldier's life better.

To the soldiers: God bless you for what you do everyday. I did it years ago and still am in awe of what you've accomplished. A lot of you don't want to be here and aren't exactly thrilled about what you're doing, but you give 100% everyday all day. All of you have changed the course of someone's life and the Army by being someone that person wants to emulate. There is great power in what you do for the Army and the country. Some of you have experienced the difference a great Station Commander can make in how you feel about recruiting, I would tell you that before you consider leaving the command consider the difference you could make. Your impact on the Army will be tenfold.

To the Leadership: It is true, Leadership really does make the difference. My job has been easy and enjoyable because of each of you. I could not ask for a more competent and caring Corps of Non-commissioned Officers to work for. You all have really gone beyond

the science of leadership and elevated it to an art form. I challenge you to again take it to the next level in the coming years. I have drawn my energy from each of you and an overwhelming desire not to let you down.

Before closing, I want to take the opportunity to welcome CSM Dorothy M. Clark. I have known CSM Clark for almost ten years and have the utmost respect for her as a soldier, recruiter and leader. I am confident she will take care of you and lead you to the next level. LTC Kiely and CSM Clark will make a formidable and successful leadership team.

In closing, I would like to think since I am no longer your Battalion Command Sergeant Major that many of you would still consider me to be a friend. The Army is a lifestyle that does not last a lifetime. When you and I eventually leave the Army our family and friends will still be there if we treated them right. I hope each of you feel I treated you right, that was my first priority 30 months ago.



## Buffalo "Soldiers" Recruiting Company

By CPT Salvatore Vicari

Congratulations to the Buffalo Soldiers for achieving Mission Box in NOV. **SIX STATIONS BOXED!** Our Company set a record for NOV (over 150% GSA). Outstanding JOB!! The following soldiers and stations led the way:  
TOP LARGE STATION: Buffalo Main  
TOP SMALL STATION: Niagara Falls  
TOP RA RECRUITER: SGT Kevin D. Palumbo  
TOP USAR RECRUITER: SGT Jeffrey A. Klimek



*Tonawanda was Most Improved Limited Production Station, SSG Charles Williams as the Station Commander, accepts the trophy. (M. Murk photo)*

Congratulations to our Family Readiness Group Leader, Connie Hadley, for receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Annual Training Conference. Her contributions to our company are immeasurable. We would like to bid her and SSG John K. Hadley farewell as they head off to Geneva Station. Fortunately for our families, Mrs. Jennifer Maikranz has volunteered as the new FRG leader. She is a motivated volunteer who will

greatly contribute toward improving our families quality of life.

Buffalo Company announces the retirement of SFC William L. Goble. SFC Goble spent over 10 years in the Buffalo Recruiting Company. His record of accomplishments are unmatched by any other USAR Recruiter. He will be missed. We wish Mr. & Mrs. Goble the best of luck.

Buffalo Company also wishes to bid farewell to the following recruiters and their families. Thank you for all your contributions to our Company.

SGT Melissa D. Letterer  
SSG Jesse L. Lee  
SSG Eric Hampton

## MOUNT UP ROUGHRIDERS

By Captain Eric Sorenson

Farewell to SFC Gerald Adams, wife, Birgit, and two sons (Robert and Lee); the Rough Riders wish SFC Adams and his family the best of luck in all endeavors.

The Company welcomes SGT Daniel Monheim, SSG John Hudson, SSG Leland Tuttle, SGT Daniel Gierhardt and their families to the Southern Tier.

Mission Box Recruiting Stations

**October-** Dunkirk, hard boxed. **November-** Corning, Hornell, Dunkirk hard box and Horseheads, Jamestown team boxed. The RoughRiders achieved **MISSION BOX for RSM NOV** and are

on their way to Quarter Boxing the Company. The RoughRiders were the Top Company in the Battalion for RSM NOV while achieving 136% of the total quality mission (GSCA) and 123% of the total combined volume mission.

Happy Holidays, from the Defenders of the Southern Frontier. Above all, think Safety over the holidays!



Continued on page 4

**Company News, continued****ROUGHRIDERS: Mount-Up!!!**

Great team effort, special recognition to the following:

**RSM OCT**

|                      |                                          |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Top Large Station    | Jamestown                                |
| Top Small Station    | Dunkirk                                  |
| Top RA Recruiter     | SGT Matthew Rado                         |
| Top USAR Recruiter   | SSG James Jenkins                        |
| Top GSA Recruiter    | SGT Matthew Rado                         |
| Top GCA Recruiter    | SSG James Jenkins                        |
| Top Volume Station   | Jamestown                                |
| Top Volume Recruiter | SSG Colin Anderson &<br>SGT Matthew Rado |

**RSM NOV**

|                      |                                                                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Top Large Station    | Horseheads                                                                        |
| Top Small Station    | Dunkirk                                                                           |
| Top RA Recruiter     | SSG Irving Villie                                                                 |
| Top USAR Recruiter   | SSG James Jenkins                                                                 |
| Top GSA Recruiter    | SSG Irving Villie                                                                 |
| Top GCA Recruiter    | SSG James Jenkins                                                                 |
| Top Volume Station   | Horseheads                                                                        |
| Top Volume Recruiter | SSG Irving Villie, SSG<br>Raymond Kerr, SSG Franklyn<br>Riggs & SSG James Jenkins |

**Syracuse Company****"Big Dawgs"**

By CPT McKinley Cunningham

Happy holidays to one and all. What a wonderful time of the year. 'Tis the season to spend lots of quality time with family and loved ones and to reflect on just how fortunate we all are to have what we have, live where we live, and be who we are.

1SG Lary Stuhlmiller and I consider ourselves very lucky to serve with the outstanding team of professionals with whom we serve. We are also thankful for the support families give their soldier so that he or she may perform with confidence.

Congratulations to SSG Amedeo Trotta, Cortland RS, for winning Top On-Production Station Commander in 1<sup>st</sup> Recruiting Brigade for FY2002. SFC Angelia Johnson, Syracuse Main, won runner-up for Brigade Limited Production Station Commander. SSG Trotta and SFC Johnson, along with SSG Chris Warren (Auburn RS) represented the company and battalion very well at the brigade competition in November. Excellent job.

Congratulations to SFC Richard Mott, Vestal RS. SFC Mott was recently awarded the Gold Recruiter Badge. Great job.

Kudos to the company's three large stations—Vestal, Mattydale, and Syracuse Main.

All three are doing well with Mattydale leading the way. Fiscal year 2003's top limited

production station commander competition will be completely internal to Syracuse Company. Good job team. Lead the way.

Syracuse Company would like to extend a warm welcome to SGT Rachon Montgomery, Ithaca Station, SSG Wyatt Smith, Vestal Station, SSG Namond Travis, Vestal Station, and their families.



*Syracuse Main received the award for Top Large Station in Fiscal Year 2002 at the Annual Awards Banquet in Niagara Falls. (M. Murk photo)*



## Who may register for this program?

The general categories of eligibility are military personnel and veterans who...

- \* Possess or eligible for an honorable discharge
- \* Were separated from active duty not earlier than 1 Oct. 1990 with six or more active duty service years.
- \* Reserve Component personnel currently serving with 10 or more years of total service.

See: [www.ProudToServeAgain.com](http://www.ProudToServeAgain.com)



*Danny Francis, Education Services Specialist, accepts the Top Battalion Section from LTC Tim P. Kiely, Bn. Commander. MAJ Keven Thomas, filling in as executive officer, is the Active Duty ESS. (M. Murk photo)*



# Volunteer of the Year

*By Garry Luke*

Connie Hadley, spouse of SSG John K. Hadley, Niagara Falls Station, received the Volunteer of the Year Award for the Battalion.

CPT Salvatore Vicari, Buffalo Company Commander, nominated her for many contributions to the families of soldiers in the Buffalo Recruiting Company.

He said that she started the Buffalo Family Readiness Group up from scratch, started the FSG website, [www.geocities.com/buffalofrg](http://www.geocities.com/buffalofrg),

started a chain-of-concern for the family members, planned Internet and local fundraisers for the group, started the FSG newsletter and posted it on the internet site, planned a company bowling event which took place last Spring, and others.

CPT Vicari says that the family support group is vital to the company's recruiting success. Another important thing she did was to start a family welcome packet for the Buffalo Company.



*Volunteer of the Year...Connie Hadley earned the Volunteer of the Year. Rosaline Prince, Family Support Specialist, presented the award. (M. Murk photo)*

## Battalion Homepages

*By Mike Murk*

Trailblazer Battalion recruiters have two additional communication tools available to them:

The battalion's own INTERNET homepage and INTRANET homepage.

The two websites differ in terms of access and purpose. Our Internet homepage can be seen by anyone with access to the Internet, while our Intranet homepage can only be accessed within U.S. Army Recruiting Command computers and, then, only by

proper authorization.

The battalion's Internet homepage is our face to the outside world and was designed as a source of key information to the general civilian community, our recruiters, DEPS, prospects, battalion members and their families.

The site can be accessed directly at <http://www.usarec.army.mil/1stbde/1nbn/index.html> or go to any of the major Internet Search Engines.



## *Do the holidays make you more anxious than joyful?*



Juggling holiday schedules and budgets, cooking, shopping, travel, and family visits, can make the coming holidays seem like a season of added stress instead of the peaceful and relaxing time you've imagined. LifeWorks can help you deal with your concerns, put things in perspective, and get a better handle on making the holidays a happy time for you and your family. LifeWorks can help you

- Handle holiday stress
- Enjoy the holiday season with your older relatives
- Balance work and family demands
- Deal with loneliness
- Budget for shopping expenses
- Enjoy the holidays with your children and set limits

***For more information about how LifeWorks can help you, go to [www.lifeworks.com](http://www.lifeworks.com) (use id: army; password: 5000) and click on "This Month's Feature."***  
***Or call toll-free: 888-267-8126 to speak with a consultant.***

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Because there's only one of you.

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# Trailblazer Annual Training Conference

Photos by Mike Murk, public affairs specialist



SFC Tim Wooden, center left, & SFC James Polnitz, center right, receive Bn. Commander and CSM Trailblazer Awards, respectively. LTC Tim Kiely, left, and CSM Billy Lansberry.



Top USAR Recruiter award went to SGT Jeffrey A. Klimek, Cheektowaga. CSM Billy Lansberry, right, presented the award.



Buffalo took Top Company honors, as well as most improved company and top USAR company.



SSG Chris A. Warren, right, earned Top RA Recruiter of FY02. He is Auburn SC. LTC Tim Kiely, Bn. Commander, presented the award.



Carol Patterson received a Certificate of Appreciation for her contributions to her husband, SFC Andrew R. Patterson's success. He was presented the Recruiter Ring by BG Leo A. Brooks, West Point.

MSG Jay Papini was presented the Morrell Medallion by BG Leo A. Brooks, West Point.



# Personnel Activities

*Information provided by the Battalion Personnel Actions Center*

## Welcome to our newest Trailblazers & their families:

|                                         |                                     |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| CPT Jonathan E. Schrader, Rochester Co. | SSG Wyatt D. Smith, Vestal          | SGT Daniel J. Gerhardt, Horseheads      |
| SSG Daniel E. Fuetterer, Batavia        | SSG Namond A. Travis, Vestal        | SGT Joseph E. Leone, Newark             |
| SSG John D. Hudson, Corning             | SSG Rolston F. Williams, Newark     | SGT Daniel R. Monheim, Olean            |
| SSG Rachon T. Montgomery, Ithaca        | SSG Andrea L. Wingo, Bn. HQ         | SGT Everette S. Porter, Tonawanda       |
| SSG Joe R. Schalk, Hamburg              | SGT Anthony J. Almeida, Buffalo Mn. | SGT Timothy S. Quattrone, Olean Mn.     |
|                                         |                                     | SGT Antavia M. Striveson, Rochester Mn. |

## Farewell to these fine Trailblazers & families:

|                                |                              |                                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| MAJ Arthur & Regina Lauer      | SFC Timothy & Shirley Harrod | SSG Matthew J. & Suncha Davin    |
| CPT Korey & Elizabeth Mitchell | SFC Todd & Zulmerexi Lattin  | SSG Jason Gardner                |
| CPT James & Irina Specht       | SFC Dennis & Patti Marcello  | SSG Stephen & Jennifer Lowe      |
| SFC James F. & Magdala Bedrin  | SFC Mark & Tracey Terrell    | SSG Harley & Veronica Richardson |
| SFC Roderick & Michele Fritz   | SSG Lynn & Laycie Cue        | SGT Melissa Letterer             |

## The U.S. Army Awards for outstanding achievements:

|                         |                         |                            |                             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MAJ Arthur Lauer, MSM   | SFC Roderick Fritz, MSM | SSG Stephen Lowe, ARCOM    | SGT Melissa Letterer, ARCOM |
| CPT Korey Mitchell, MSM | SFC Todd Lattin, MSM    | SSG Mark E. Terrell, ARCOM | SFC Timothy Harrod, AAM     |
| SFC Leon Barney, MSM    | CPT James Specht, ARCOM |                            |                             |

## The U.S. Army recognizes these great soldiers by promoting them:

|                        |                      |                    |                    |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| SFC Robert W. Conkling | SFC Richard Marsland | SSG James Barrett  | SSG Chris Stephens |
| SFC Kevin Green        | SSG Tina Bailey      | SSG Franklyn Riggs | SSG Leland Tuttle  |

*MSM: Meritorious Service Medal;  
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal;  
AAM: Army Achievement Medal*



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